

## MINUTES

### Mansfield Advocates for Children

Wednesday, February 6, 2008  
Mansfield Public Library – Buchanan Center  
**6:30PM-8:00 PM**

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), S. Baxter (staff), J. Stoughton (staff), N. Hovorka, K. Russo (United Way), S. Daley, J. Goldman, A. Bladen (Chair), L. Dahn, B. Lehmann, J. Buck, J. Higham, D. McLaughlin, C. Guerreri, R. Leclerc, MJ Newman

REGRETS: A. Bloom, K. Paulhus, L. Oransoff, J. Soroka

Time	Item	Discussion	Outcome
6:30-6:35	<b><u>Call to order and Announcements</u></b> <b>Sandy – SR Allocations</b> <b>-State Legislative Session</b>	<b>S. Baxter announced that the SR Task Force met and determined allocation of spaces for the next program year (4 Centers).</b>  <b>L. Dahn announced that CCC has completed their NAYEC accreditation visit and will rejoin the School Readiness program, pending NAEYC accreditation which will be determined within 3 months.</b>  <b>S. Baxter announced that the state legislative session opened today: one issue being reviewed is that of parity of space payment between priority districts and special need schools in the School Readiness program.</b>	<b>Chair A. Bladen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.</b>          <b>Members were encouraged to contact their legislators and support parity between these districts for equal pay for each space at all of the State's centers.</b>
6:35-6:40	<b>Approve Minutes of 1/09/08</b>	<b>J. Goldman pointed out that the discussion about small group reports needs to be clarified</b>	
6:40-7:25	<b><u>DISCOVERY:</u> Report on TA money</b> <b>Report on</b>	<b>S.Baxter reported that we have been awarded a planning grant for \$10,000 to hire a consultant for technical</b>	

	Consultant assignment	assistance in order to resubmit the LocalCapacity Building Grant. We are awaiting a recommendation for a consultant from Graustein.	
	<u>Discovery Action Plan Updated</u>	<p>-We have not received the carry-over funds from our Graustein 2007 Incentive grant nor our regular Graustein 2008 grant from EASTCONN. S.Baxter has requested follow-up with Carmen Siberon and will report on the process as soon as they have contact.</p> <p>-S.Baxter reviewed our 2008 Discovery Action Plan. Discussion about whether or not sub-committees have completed a list of goals and actions to achieve goals. This was seen as a duty of each of the small groups and would take too much time if done in the large group setting. B.Lehmann suggested that the small groups address these action items and report on status at our next meeting.</p> <p>-K.Grunwald pointed out that not all of the action steps are currently covered by small groups. C.Guerreri pointed out that the Executive Committee needs to be meeting monthly to provide direction to the subcommittees. There was some lack of clarity about who comprises the Executive Committee. This should include chairs of the sub-committees, but not all have designated Chairs. C.Guerreri pointed out the importance of each sub-committee having a voice at the Executive Committee.</p> <p>-Strengthening local and state level relationships: some attendance at the LWV Candidate's Night, no other work. B.Lehmann suggested that</p>	<p>K.Grunwald and R.Leclerc are the designated co-chairs of the SR Task Force, A.Bladen and S.Daley are co-chairs of the Infant/Toddler Group. The Membership Committee and the Parents Committee have not yet designated chairs or co-chairs.</p> <p>Sub-committees/small groups will all look at action items that are not specifically assignable to one of the sub-committees to decide where they may fit into the action steps. C.Guerreri offered to attend at least one meeting to help groups organize around the objectives.</p>

		each sub-committee look at this relative to the issue that they are focusing on. Parity funding is an example of that for the School Readiness Task Force.	
	<b><u>SMALL GROUP UPDATES</u></b>	<p>-J. Higham reported that the Parent Committee had to cancel the CT Parent Power 1-on-1 training due to weather. They will be meeting with Ann Pratt on 2/29/08 for this training.</p> <p>-Infant/Toddler Group met and gave a synopsis of the enrollment status for children under age 3 at each of the four accredited centers. Data from the Centers also shows how many children are on the waiting list. They discussed 'need vs. want' for care. A. Bladen pointed out that much of the need for care is related to UConn employees, which is consistent with the Provost's Report. J. Goldman pointed out that of the spaces in town, 73% of the children are connected in some way to UConn.</p> <p>The survey for enrollment in home-based centers was also presented, and indicates that there is a scarcity of care prior to 7:00AM and after 6:00PM. There are currently no full-time openings for children under the age of 2. No information was obtained about the number of children receiving care through kith and kin or in unlicensed homes. J. Higham suggested that this question could be answered in the 1-on-1 parent interviews. The picture of the enrollment status for home-based care is very different than it is for the Centers. Home-based providers do not maintain a waiting list.</p> <p>J. Goldman raised a question about</p>	<p>It was suggested that a column should be added to the Infant/Toddler report to indicate the number of children enrolled vs. capacity of the Center.</p> <p>The point was also made that we would need to determine what we want to accomplish through the use of this data before bringing in the TA data consultant.</p> <p>Another suggestion was made that in the future, when Centers and Homecare Providers receive childcare requests that they cannot fill because of full enrollment, the parents should be directed to call S. Baxter. This way an ongoing waiting list can be maintained which would more accurately show a</p>

		<p>theMansfield Community profile regarding data on the 'Ready Community' portion.</p> <p>-Membership committee: no report</p>	<p>picture of the unmet childcare need.</p> <p>Data TA consultant questions: Is there a need t do a community needs assessment? Can these questions be incorporated into the 1-on-1 parent interviews? The group needs to make a list of questions for Sue Wilson about the data that was provided.</p>
7:30-8:00	United Way- Kim Russo Update on the Infant/Toddler Listening Campaign	K.Russo has provided a report about the Listening Campaign done by United Way. These forums were held around the State. The issue of liability for providing infant/toddler care was not discussed. None of the communities surveyed really mirrorMansfield. We could consider hosting our own forum.	<p>Schedule meeting.</p> <p>Consider incorporating some of the questions into the 1-on-1 parent interviews, but we need to consider the purpose of the 1-on-1 interviews.</p>

	<p><b>Month of the Young Child</b>          -review last year's offerings          -form small committee,          -begin planning for April events</p>	<p><b>A.Bladen suggested that MAC form a small committee to work on this, to move the item out of the large group. S.Baxter suggested that this year we make this the Week of the Young Child (not Month), and make it consistent with NAEYC's national initiative.</b>  <b>All agreed that this event will be the week of April 13-19<sup>th</sup>.</b></p>	<p><b>Volunteers needed for this sub-committee. N.Hovorka will work on the brochure. Additional volunteers from each of the Centers were offered. Budget must be developed for the events. B.Lehmann will also be part of the committee, as well as J.Stoughton who will represent the Library.</b></p>

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM**

**NEXT MAC MEETING: March 5, 2008, 6:30PM-8:00PM Location TBA**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Kevin Grunwald  
 Transposed to new format,  
 Sandy Baxter